FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS OF DIVINE WISDOM

FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS OF DIVINE WISDOM

PROFOUND QUESTIONS WHICH GURU NANAK DEV JI ADDRESSES IN JAP JI SAHIB

DR. AMARJIT SINGH BAL Ph.D.

(*Doctor of Philosophy in Education, University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A***)**

Publisher

B. Chattar Singh Jiwan Singh

Amritsar (India)

© Amarjit Singh Bal

Note: This page to be completed by the publisher

DEDICATED TO TEJINDER, MY WIFE

PREFACE

The Jap Ji Sahib composition of Guru Nanak Dev Ji is the superb rendition of True Guru's Divine Wisdom. For the benefit of his disciples, Guru Ji enunciates the fundamental precepts of Divine Wisdom. These precepts, enshrined in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, are also the basis of the compositions of Guru Angad Dev Ji, Guru Amar das Ji, Guru Ram Das Ji, Guru Arjan Dev Ji and Guru Teg Bahadar Ji. The same is true of all other devotees of God whose compositions are in Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

All sermons of Guru Granth Sahib are for the benefit of humanity. Stated in the Sehaj state of mind, the sermons educate, motivate and bless the learner to gain Sehaj state of mind. The Sehaj state of mind is the natural, joyful, on-going and effortless connectedness of mind of the devotee with God, Guru and Saints, in love and reverence.

Sehaj state of mind is the natural, joyful, on-going and effortless connectedness of mind of the devotee with God, Guru and Saints, in love and reverence. The term connotes Divine Experience in perpetuity, irrespective of circumstances of life. This experience is marked by spiritual pleasure (*Aatam Anand*), true happiness and true peacefulness. The good or bad circumstances of the devotee do not disrupt his / her connectedness.

Sehaj is the best gift of God to His devotee, second only to the blessing of His *Darshan*, vivid vision of God. Both *Sehaj* and *Darshan* are the kindest responses of God to the supplication of the devotee who begs for union with Him. *Sehaj* opens up such vistas of awareness to the devotee of God as are unknown to anyone else.

There are deep questions related to the fundamental precepts of Divine Wisdom. Guru Nanak Dev Ji addresses these questions in his magnificent composition of Jap Ji Sahib. Below we present the questions as well as the authoritative responses of the True Guru.

The questions have been developed from the study of Jap Ji Sahib as a disciple of True Guru. The composition itself is not in question / answer format. However, we believe that the understanding of Guru Ji's wisdom is facilitated by this format. It is hoped that the reader will agree and benefit from this approach.

I am grateful to the Guru for enabling me to compose this booklet and to disseminate his Divine Wisdom. Forgiveness is humbly sought from the Guru if my attempt to understand and transmit his wisdom has fallen short of what he intended to communicate to the humanity.

Dr. Amarjit Singh Bal

Stockton, California, U.S.A. (June 9, 2014)

E-mail: ***amarjitbal2000@yahoo.com***

A NOTE TO THE READER

GOD EXISTS ETERNALLY. HIS PRESENCE IS DIFFUSED THROUGHOUT HIS CREATION. HE IS KNOWN AND MET ONLY WITH THE GUIDANCE OF TRUE GURU

Stated simply and succinctly, the highest aim of life is to know and meet Waheguru (God). The True Guru, Guru Granth Sahib helps his Sikhs (Disciples) to know and meet Waheguru.

Jap Ji Sahib states the philosophy of Sikh Religion. This composition is of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Guru of Sikhs and the founder of Sikh Religion. The sermons of Guru Granth Sahib start with this composition.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji, True Guru, guides and helps his Sikhs to know and meet Waheguru. What a wonderful and unique guidance as well as the benefit thereof to his Sikhs and to humanity!

Guru Ji stresses that to know and to meet Waheguru is entirely possible when a Sikh earnestly engages in the pursuit of knowing Waheguru and meeting Him with the guidance and help of True Guru. While engaged in this pursuit, a Sikh as a householder makes his / her living with honest means and shares his / her good fortune with others.

The True Guru is always kind to his earnest student. He creates pure and intense devotion for Waheguru in the mind of his student. Let us pay attention to what Guru Nanak Dev Ji offers as his guidance in the following pages.

CONTENTS

PRECEPT NO **QUESTIONS / PRECEPTS** **PAGE NO.**

1. **What are the attributes of the personality of God and who affirms them?**
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.

30.

Note to the publisher: Please complete the above.

FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS OF DIVINE WISDOM

QUESTION NO. 1

What are the attributes of the personality of God and who affirms them?

Precept: There is only One God. The True Guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji affirms it. His attributes among an infinite number of other attributes are as follows:

- He is the sole Creator of all that exists.
- He is everywhere and in everyone.
- His name is the only one that is true in all times - He exists forever.
- His nature is active, not passive.
- He has a presence - a personality.
- He is fearless and without enmity towards anyone.
- He is immortal, unlike all other existences.
- He does not suffer transmigration - the cycle of birth, death and rebirth.
- He is the sole cause of His existence.
- He replaces ignorance with wisdom.
- He is kind. His Grace redeems.
- He is known, believed and experienced in the mind by the Grace of Guru. One unites with God - becomes one with God - by the kindness of Guru - by means of the Divine Wisdom taught by the Guru and Guru's blessings. The disciple of Guru must focus on and devote to God of above attributes. God has existed before the beginning of time and since the different eras. He exists now and shall exist forever in the future.

QUESTION NO. 2

How can a person connect with God?

Precept: Connection with God can only be made by accepting His absolute authority over His creation. Everyone lives life in accordance with what God has ordained for the individual. God is the absolute sovereign in all respects, over his entire creation. It is only by acknowledging this truth that one is liberated from the snare of falsehood. It is by absolute obedience, obeisance and faithfulness to God that the wall of falsehood, that hides God from man, is demolished. Only then, one lives one's life as is specifically ordained by God, yet remaining in harmony with Him. No other means shall remove the entrapment in falsehood and bring one in harmony with God. All human efforts in the form of contemplation, deep meditation, ascetic practices,

accumulation of vast wealth and power, or great feats of intellect are futile in gaining any merit with God.

QUESTION NO. 3
How to overcome the egotism of mind?

Precept: Egotism can only be overcome by acknowledging the sovereignty of God over His creation. All that exists is the result of God's choice and action. The scope of God's rule over his creation cannot be fathomed. Those, who surrender to this fact, are honored by God. It is by God's decree that one is noble or ignoble; suffers pain or enjoys pleasure; is bestowed with his Grace or is without his Grace. All are absolutely under the sovereign rule of God. The failure to acknowledge this fact leads to disharmony and disconnection with God. The acknowledgment of the fact of God's sovereignty leads to harmony and union with God.

QUESTION NO. 4
Who sanctions what happens?

Precept: Things happen as enjoined by God. God runs the affairs of His creation as He pleases. Over the ages, He gives and gives out of His inexhaustible resources (treasures) to meet the needs of His creation. The recipients may tire out. But God's bountiful giving is endless. None has the wherewithal to assess and express God's power, or the aim of His giving to his creation, or His wondrous attributes, or the scope of His knowledge, or why He first creates and then destroys, or why He appears so far away and unreachable and yet He is present everywhere and in everyone. Only God knows the truth about above matters. However, it is true that there is no end of those who fruitlessly make judgments and opine about the above matters.

Question No. 5
How does God communicate?

Precept: God communicates with the language of love. His love is boundless. Everything about God is true and everlasting. Truth and eternity are the hallmarks of His personality. It is through love that He communicates with those He chooses to communicate with. He is Boundless. He fills the needs of His creation forever. How may one please such a One? What is it that one should say to attract His attention and invoke His love? The answer is to ponder, in reverence, over God's great and imperishable attributes. The time thus spent is the blessed time, especially the early morning hours. The endowment of soul with human body is due to the Grace of God. It is by the Grace of 'Giver of salvation' that a person comes to His door and is blessed with salvation. Then soul is not endowed with another body. Instead, the soul merges into Super Soul - God. One understands the personality of the True One by His Grace. He is Supreme in all respects.

Note: God's Name (Any of His attributes) when thought of with devotion, connects His personality to one's awareness. This awareness produces great calm, happiness and inner peace in one's mind. When God blesses one with His love, one experiences a pre-eminent pleasure. Then, one is freed of bondage by the Grace of God and one observes Him present everywhere. It is through reverence and love for God that one unites with Him.

Question No. 6
Is God self-existent?

Precept: God exists because of Himself. God - The *Niranjan* - exists because of Himself and not due to a cause outside of Himself. The Maaya has no influence on Him. He is Free because of His own nature. Those, who revere Him and devote to Him, are honored by Him. God frees such individuals of all suffering. He blesses them with peace and happiness in life and in after-life. He is the inexhaustible treasure of attributes. One ought to sing His praises.

Note: The word *Maaya* used by Sikh Gurus and *Bhagats* does not merely refer to wealth as its meaning but it also has a far more versatile meaning. *Maaya* is an abstract but a real entity, whose influence extends over all in the creation, except God, True Guru and True Disciples of Guru. The human mind cannot be freed from its control and influence by any means whatsoever. It has the power to create illusions to mislead human beings - to make it look permanent to them what is temporary. It is irresistible. It has multifarious ways to attract the human mind and seduce it. It is the entity that stands between man and God to prevent union. It defiles human character. It has the power to persuade those who tout themselves to be virtuous, and the most austere - self-denying individuals - to entertain ill-thoughts and cause them to commit ill-deeds. The passions of lust, wrath, greed, attachment - to - falsehood and egotism are its ready weapons to attack and seduce the human mind. It creates suffering and pain for its victim. It is the cause of entrapment in the cycle of birth and death. It is always in opposition to Truth. But, in spite of all its powers over the human mind, it is absolutely subservient to God and the godly - those who live by the precepts of Divine Wisdom.

Only the Grace of God is capable of freeing the mind of His devotee from the snares of *Maaya*, for He is the Lord of *Maaya*. God saves His chosen ones by bringing them to the True Guru. They, in humility and devotion to the Guru, learn Divine Wisdom from the True Guru. The learning thus acquired and the blessings of Guru free the disciples from the trap of falsehood. They unite with God and achieve salvation. They do not suffer the cycle of birth and death.

Question No. 7
How does God relate to the True Guru and his disciples?

Precept: God views the True Guru and his disciples with special favor. The disciples of True Guru are versed in Divine Music and Divine Wisdom. The Guru wields the powers of Shiva, Brahma, Vishnu and *Paarbati*. They are not above God in stature. Guru Nanak Dev Ji says that he chooses to not say what he knows about the personality of God. It is sufficient to acknowledge that the attributes of God cannot be fully described.

What is important to ask of the Guru is that he be kind to connect his disciple with God. God is the Benefactor of all living beings. With humility, one must supplicate to Guru and God that the Benefactor is never forgotten by the disciple.

Question No. 8
How does a person become disciple of the True Guru?

Precept: It is by God's Grace that one meets the True Guru. Ablutions at religious sites avail one nothing. If God selects one and bestows His favor, only then purification of self follows. God blesses such an individual with Guru's instruction. (In the Sikh Faith the disciple of Guru is called a *Gurmukh*). The disciple develops intellectual understanding of his Guru's instruction regarding God. He also grows emotionally, closer and closer to God. He believes and honors Guru's instruction. He follows Guru's instruction in his conduct. The enlightenment gained from Guru's instruction illuminates disciple's mind. The disciple beseeches his Guru to never let him forget God, the Provider and Sustainer of all life.

Question No. 9
Is God impressed by the worldly merits of a person?

God is not impressed by one's worldly merits. Everyone has countless flaws of personality. To boast otherwise is to act egotistical. God is not on the side of the egotist. An egotist must suffer degradation. He cannot escape condemnation of God. The egotist has a status of an absolutely low - life when judged by God. Deprived of the Grace of God, he is without any merit even if he lives an unimaginably long life, unlike the rest of humanity, and he rules the entire world, and he is extolled by all.

If God bestows one with his Grace, only then one has true merits. Otherwise all accomplishments, no matter how fantastic, are worthless. No one can impress God with personal merits. Only those accomplishments have merit which God grants by His Grace. To receive such merits, one must beseech God. God has the power to bless the one without merit and make him meritorious. And He has the power to grant more merits to those who already possess many merits. There is no one who is in a position to bestow merits on God.

Question No. 10
What does a disciple of True Guru learn from him?

Precept: Guru teaches his disciple many noble lessons. Guru's instruction is unparalleled in its meritorious impact upon the disciple. It teaches him Divine Wisdom. It inculcates knowledge about the following subjects:

- The holy (such as *Sidh*, *Pir*, *Sur*, *Naath*) and their traits.
- Fundamental truths about the universe.
- Freedom from suffering.
- Emancipation of those who commit immoral deeds.
- Demigods and their devotees.
- Discipline related to the control of mind.

- Understanding the human body.
- Knowledge of Religious texts, such as *Saast*, *Simrit*, *Ved*.
- Truth.
- Forbearance.
- Divine knowledge.
- True ablution, not merely bathing at sixty-eight places that are considered holy.
- Understanding of *Sehaj*, meaning effortless connectedness with God.
- Study that God favors.
- Understanding of those who have great many noble traits.
- Bestowal of honor by God, as Sheikh, *Pir*, *Paatshah*.
- Reformation of the spiritually-blind.
- Knowledge of what seems unfathomable in the world.

Guru's instruction destroys all pain, suffering and sins. And it connects the disciple with God, thus bestowing eternal bliss - peace and happiness - on the devotee of God.

Question No. 11
In what ways does the personality of a devotee of God change?

Precept: Love of God brings about many honorable changes in the devotee. The disciples of Guru, who value and internalize Guru's instruction, are blessed with the worship of God - The One who is unaffected by *Maaya*. They (disciples) have the following characteristics:

- Their sublime state of mind cannot be described.
- Their noble accomplishments are beyond description.
- Their mind is enlightened.
- They become aware of the centrality of God in all realms of the creation.
- They become aware of the omnipresence of God.
- They do not suffer in life.
- They do not suffer in death.
- They lead a spiritual life undeterred by hurdles along the way.
- They retain their honor and are recognized by the people as honorable.
- They do not wander around seeking the right course of life.
- They live a morally-sound life.
- They achieve salvation.
- Their families live a good and honorable life.
- They and those who associate with them successfully navigate the ocean of life.
- They do not wander around looking for hand-outs in life.

Question No. 12
Does God honor His chosen ones?

Precept: God exalts His chosen ones. The truly-exalted ones are only those who God accepts as His chosen ones. God honors them. They have faith in the teachings of their Guru. The humble are honored by God.

God's attributes are limitless and no one possesses the intellect to know them all. Little minds cannot fathom the Super Mind. The minds of people are like rivers and rivulets in comparison to the ocean. The humblest of the humble, who bow before the Grandeur and Greatness of God, are honored by God. Others, who boast of possessing vast powers and wealth, are judged by God as lowly and vastly inferior to the humble worshiper. All are beggars before God. They receive what God gives because of His Grace.

Question No. 13
How did God bring about His creation?

Precept: God brought about His creation by a single order. No one can obstruct God's commands. One is wonder-struck at the infinity of actions that underlie God's creation. It is a wonder of wonders as to how the planets are sustained in space. To know God is to know that God is the architect behind these wonders. God's attributes of compassion, forbearance and absolute goodness provide the power to sustain all that exists in space, without physical supports. God brought about his variegated creation by a single order. In his creation, the following is true:

- All living beings are destined to act out their lives in certain ways.
- No one can understand the mystery surrounding the destinies of living beings.
- No one knows what are the powers of God and how splendidly beautiful God is.
- No one knows the scope of God's powers and the bounty of his treasurers, out of which He continues to give to His creation.
- Countless are the devotees who pursue their varied faiths.
- Countless are the modes of devotion and austerities.
- Countless are the scriptures and those who read them.
- Countless are the yogis who are detached from the world.
- Countless are the devotees of God who worship Him and contemplate Divine Wisdom.
- Countless are virtuous.
- Countless are charitable.
- Countless are warriors who battle fearlessly.
- Countless are those who engage in deep contemplation and do not utter a word.
- Countless are the worst fools.
- Countless are thieves plundering others' possessions.
- Countless indulge in tyranny over others.
- Countless are murderers.
- Countless are sinners.
- Countless engage in falsehood.
- Countless are thieves.
- Countless are of impure mind and pursue depraved deeds.
- Countless commit aggression and bully others.
- Countless are reckless murderers.
- Countless are sinners who indulge in sinful acts, without any compunction.
- Countless engage in falsehood and make it their way of life.
- Countless are corrupted and care not what they consume.

- Countless burden their minds with ill-talk of others.
- Countless are places and their names in the creation.
- Countless are heavenly bodies, far out of reach, in the creation.

The word 'countless' used in designating the various aspects of God's creation does not do justice in grasping the vast scope of creation. However, the attributes of God are described by words. God is praised by words. Divine Wisdom is dispensed by means of words. The songs of God's praise are created by words. Words are the means to speak and to write. The union with God is beyond the capabilities of words to describe. God ordains the union of His devotee with Him. No one can question this decree.

One unites with God by God's Grace. God's orders as to how people live their lives are irrefutable and absolute. There is only One Creator of the entire creation. There is nothing in the creation that is without the presence of God.

God's creation is indescribable. Such is the personality of God as defies all attempts to marvel at him. God Exists forever and what He wills happens. To the devotee of God, the action that pleases God is the proper action - the devotee is ever-obedient to God and ever-willing to submit to His Will.

Question N. 14
How can the impact of sins on the mind be removed?

Precept: Sins are cleansed by the Grace of God. A sincere, reverential and loving reflection on God of infinite attributes serves to cleanse one of all sins in the same manner as soap washes one's body and dirty clothes clean. The consequences of sinful acts as well as of virtuous acts are not imaginary. The consequences are real. Without cleansing, one must suffer the consequences of one's actions. One reaps what one sows. Therefore, without the cleansing of mind, noted above, one must suffer the cycle of birth and death, as decreed by God.

Question No. 15
What makes one fit to worship God?

Precept: God's Grace makes one fit to worship Him. All other deeds, no matter how meritorious, pale in comparison to the deed of commitment and dedication to God. No ablutions can match the cleansing impact of this deed on one's inner self. It is because of God's Grace that one develops the attributes that are necessary to worship him. The wealth of - the acquisition of - Divine Wisdom - redeems and reforms a person. Then the individual is ever - enthusiastic to cherish and devote to the Truth. The wisdom - which is taught by the True Guru - frees the mind of the student from the trap of illusory and destructive temptations. The student of Divine Wisdom forever devotes to the One who is splendid and eternal.

Question No. 16
Does anyone know the origin of God's creation?

Precept: No one knows the origin of God's creation. No one except God knows the exact time of the origin of His creation. The pundits, who consult the *Puraan*, do not know. The *Kazis* (the

learned of Islam) who quote from the Quran do not know. The yogis do not know the truth. Only the Creator possesses true knowledge about the origin of creation.

People lay claim to possessing superior knowledge than others and they attempt to define the personality of God. The truth is that such attempts are futile and without merit. Only God can define Himself and only He fully knows His Greatness. He is Supreme. Whatever he orders, happens. All are under His Sway. The subservient ones cannot know God's limits. To claim to know the greatness of God is nothing but a sham claim. God does not recognize conceit. The conceited ones are spurned by God.

Question No. 17
Are there limits to God's creation?

Precept: There are universes upon universes in God's creation. The universes extend limitlessly below and above the Earth. The wisdom contained in the Scriptures of Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity points to one fundamental fact which is that God's creation is limitless. The assumption, that the forms of creation can be enumerated and the limits of creation can be established, is a flawed assumption. God is the only One who knows the expanse of His Creation.

Question No. 18
Is it possible to know the full scope of God's greatness?

Precept: No one will ever know the full scope of God's greatness. God can never be praised enough, for the reasons for His praise are infinite. His actions are limitless. There is no end to what He keeps giving to His creation. The faculties of sight and hearing are incapable of deciphering His limits. Only He is privy to what is in His Mind. His creation is endless. There is no end to His capabilities. There are those who crave to delimit God. But such efforts are futile. No one will ever describe God fully. The more is said of Him, the more remains to be said of Him. Even the hyperboles fall short of describing God's greatness.

The right approach is to be content by accepting that God is great. His seat of power is most August. No one will ever equal His Eminence. God is unparalleled in His greatness. No one can know the extent of His greatness. Only God knows how great He is. It is by God's Grace that we receive His blessings, including the blessing of His worship.

Question No. 19
Are there limits to God's Grace?

Precept: The Grace of God is boundless. He Gives and Gives to His Creation. He Himself is deficient in nothing. Countless number of brave and heroic persons beseech for His Grace. God gives alms to humanity in countless ways. There are those who put God's gifts to immoral ad unworthy uses. They waste away their lives. There are those who care not to acknowledge the gifts of God. They are interested only in consuming what God gives. There are those who show no gratitude. There are those who must suffer because God gives them suffering to mend their ways.

If God wills, only then one is freed from worldly entrapments. No one has the power to interfere with the Will of God. Only a fool suggests any other way to escape falsehood. As a result, such a foolish person remains entrapped in falsehood and suffers. He reaps dishonor for his egotism.

There are many who believe that God knows the needs of humanity and provides for them. Greatest blessing of God to an individual is the blessing which enables him to revere him and to love him. The individual thus blessed is regarded by God as the king of kings. The individual himself experiences self-fulfillment by the Grace of God. He remains deficient in nothing. He becomes absolutely content.

Question No. 20
Can value be put on matters that relate to God?

Precept: Invaluable and unique is every matter that relates to God:

- Invaluable and unique are the attributes of God.
- Invaluable and unique are those who devote to God.
- Invaluable and unique is the stockpile of the attributes of God.
- Invaluable and unique is the plan of God which underlies birth and death.
- Invaluable and unique is the love of God.
- Invaluable and unique is the union of devotee with God.
- Invaluable and unique is the faith that God endorses.
- Invaluable and unique is the Court of God where He passes judgments.
- Invaluable and unique is His process of making judgments.
- Invaluable and unique is His bestowal of Grace.
- Invaluable and unique is His purpose to bestow Grace.
- Invaluable and unique are His acts of kindness.
- Invaluable and unique are His orders.

All matters pertaining to God are unique, invaluable and indescribable. No one will ever be able to prove otherwise. All religious texts and all celestial beings fail to describe the entirety of God's attributes. Those, who have attempted to describe the attributes of God, include the following:

- The compiler of Vedas.
- The compiler of *Puraan*
- The readers and interpreters of the Vedas and *Puraan*.
- Brahma and *Inder*.
- Krishna and the *Gopis*.
- Shiva and the *Sidhs*.
- Numerous *Buddhas*.
- Demons and Angels.
- Noble persons and their admirers

There are those who have expressed their views about the limits of God and they are no more in this world. There are those who attempted to define the limits of God and are no more in this world. If countless more of the above describers of the limits of God were to undertake

the same task, then they too will not be able to delimit God. It is true that, over the ages, countless individuals have tried and countless are still trying without success to delimit God. Only God knows the full scope of His attributes. Anyone making a claim of this knowledge is the worst fool among fools.

Question No. 21
What can be said about the seat of power of God?

Precept: God's seat of His eternal power is a mystery. Countless are those who sing His praises. Where is that seat of power from where God rules over His creation? It is a mystery of mysteries. Countless musicians serve God at His Command. Numerous are the ragas and melodies sung for God by musicians. Among those who surround God and sing His praises are the following, and many more:

- The wind.
- The water.
- The fire.
- The *Dharam Raj*, Judgment-Dispenser who, upon death, judges the deeds done in life by everyone.
- *Chittar Gupt*, keepers of the accounts of deeds for judgment by *Dharam Raj*.
- The Celestial Beings - Shiva, Brahma, Angels, *Indra*.
- The saints who contemplate God's attributes.
- The meditative *Sidhas*.
- The pursuers of self-discipline.
- The philanthropists.
- The content and serene ones.
- The courageous warriors.
- The learned Pundits.
- The *Rikheesar* (Savants) who study the Vedas in all ages.
- The beautiful women who enamor the mind and belong in the world, in heaven, and the region in-between.
- The Rattan (Legendary treasures of the ocean).
- All sixty-eight holy places where ablution is supposed to wash away sins.
- The brave and those who are endowed with great combative power.
- The entire creation, universes upon universes, which the Creator sustains.

All creation is under God's Absolute Control and is in fear and awe of Him. All creation, at its core, pays obeisance to God and sings His praises. God Graces those who He likes and they sing His praises. They are imbued with God's love and they rejoice in singing His praises. It is impossible to catalog all those who sing God's praises, in reverence and awe of Him.

God is the embodiment of Truth. He, the Creator, exists forever. God's creation is kaleidoscopic. He manages His creation as He pleases. He oversees His creation with standards that match His greatness. None has the power to tell God what to do. He is the Greatest. He is Glorious. He is the King of Kings. It behooves the created ones to obey and accept what God does. Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the True Guru, is ever-obedient and ever-accepting of the commands of the Creator. The True Guru is in eternal harmony with God.

Question No. 22
What is special about the Divine Wisdom of True Guru?

Precept: Divine Wisdom of True Guru is distinctive. For the yogi sect of *Aaee* and other sects of yogis, the following dress code is necessary:

- To wear ear rings.
- To carry a begging bowl.
- To carry a beggar's bag.
- To smear ashes on the body.
- To wear a patched quilt around the body.
- To carry a staff symbolizing the Yogi Faith.

In contrast to the way of the yogis, Guru Nanak Dev Ji instructs his disciples - Truth-Seeking Yogis - to do the following:

- To practice contentment (which Plato - the Greek philosopher - called natural wealth) in order to control the malady of discontent, and to do this in place of wearing the ear rings.
- To conduct in a self-respecting manner and to do this in place of carrying a begging bowl and the beggar's bag.
- To pay attention to the attributes of God, and to do this in place of smearing the body with ashes.
- To be aware of the fact of death of the maiden-body, and to do this in place of wearing a patched quilt.
- To follow the instructions of the True Guru, and to do this in place of carrying a staff.
- To conquer the egotistic mind and thus subdue the corrupting temptations of the world.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji puts forth his perspective to the yogi sect of *Aaee* and other sects of the yogis. He reminds them to worship God. Guru Nanak Dev Ji offers his deep respects to the One who is Primal - The First -- whose attributes cannot be counted, who is untouched by *Maaya*, who is without a beginning, who is Indestructible and who remains unchanged - time has no effect on Him.

Question No. 23
What ought to be taught under Faith (*Dharam*)?

Precept: Faith should teach Divine Wisdom, Compassion and Supremacy of God. Faith should inculcate in the believer: Divine Wisdom, compassion, acknowledgment that God is present in everyone and everywhere, that all are under God's Sovereign Rule and that He is the Cause of 'union and separation' of all sorts. One receives what God Sanctions for the individual. To hanker after special supernatural powers takes the pursuer away from godliness. God creates and sustains. And He destroys the created. All these three acts are under God's Control and not under the control of alleged three deities, namely: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The mystery of mysteries is that God is hidden from the view of the created, yet nothing is hidden from God.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji puts forth his perspective to the yogi sect of *Aaee* and other sects of the yogis. He reminds them to worship God.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji offers his deep respects to the One Who is Primal - The First - Whose attributes cannot be counted, Who is untouched by *Maaya*, Who is without a beginning, Who is Indestructible and Who remains unchanged - time has no effect on Him.

Question No. 24
Is there anything imperfect about God?

Precept: Nothing is imperfect about the personality or the actions of Perfect Being. God provides whatever is needed to sustain His Creation. His Giving is Inexhaustible. It started at the beginning of time. The Creator surveys His creation forever. He is the Perfect Being. And nothing is imperfect about His actions.

One ought to offer one's salutations to God who is:

- Since the beginning of time.
- Pure, without any blemish.
- Without a beginning and an end.
- Immortal.
- Unaffected by the vagaries of time.

Question No. 25
How does the union of a devotee occur with God?

Precept: Union of a devotee with God occurs with His Grace. The spiritual path, that leads one to inner-connectedness with God, is the path treading on which the tongue seems to morph into one hundred thousand; each of these tongues becomes two million; and each tongue recites the Name of God one hundred thousand times. In this way, one ascends the noble steps towards union with God. The devout and unceasing remembrance of God finally crests at union with God.

By listening to the lofty and divine views of the True Guru, a humble person, who is free of egotism, is inspired to emulate the worship of God. By the Grace of God, such a person develops the propensity to worship God. The intensity of aspiration and enthusiasm to become one with God occurs with the Grace of God. An individual who is egotistical and cares not for devotion to God is a pursuer of falsehood. Such a person utters nothing but falsehood and is prone to making false claims of union with God.

Note: In the verses, paraphrased above, Guru Nanak Dev Ji has used a parable to depict the state of mind of a devotee of God, who has ascended to the highest stage of awareness of God. The continuous flow of connectedness with God does match the number which is stated in the parable about the recitation of God' Name, for a second of time is divisible into nanoseconds (one billionth of a second).

Oneness with God occurs when the devotee experiences an on-going and automatic remembrance of God. In this experience, devotee's focus upon God is unique and unmitigated. The experience feels as if the devotee has millions of tongues to recite God's attributes. Guru's instruction inspires the humble to remember God. The humble of disposition, as opposed to the egotistical, is naturally open-minded and willing to learn. By God's Grace, the humble one ascends to the pinnacle. He is granted oneness, an intimate relationship with God. Anyone

who claims to have united with God, in some other way, is merely egotistical and makes a false claim.

Question No. 26
Is God the Grand Cause of everything?

Precept: God is the cause of causes – the Grand Cause. It is because of God's sanction that one is able to speak, be silent, to ask for something or to give something, to live, to die, to rule over others, to become wealthy, to exercise power over others. Similarly, it is because of God's blessing that one contemplates understanding of God, is able to gain liberation from the trappings of world and life. Only God can make a person virtuous or sinful. God is the Grand Cause. He witnesses all that happens as the result of His Commands.

Question No. 27
In what ways is God involved with His creation?

God is actively involved with His creation in the following ways:

Precept: God judges our moral conduct: God created the Earth. He is the Judge of right and wrong conduct. God provided the Earth with sun, moon, seasons, time, air, water, fire and space. God inhabited the Earth with countless species and provided them with their niches. God judges the actions of all based on truth since He is the Embodiment of Truth. Nothing about Him is less than or other than Truth. It is by the Grace, Favor of God, that one achieves the ideal - the true aim of life. God Honors the chosen ones who live life in harmony with Him and devote to Him with reverence and love. Others are evaluated in light of their merits and demerits. After departing from this world, such judgments are rendered by God in case of each and every one.

Precept: God is involved with His creation in infinite ways. God's Creation is infinite. His presence is diffused throughout His creation. His involvement with His creation is infinitely diverse and pervasive. The truth about God is indescribably resplendent. His attributes are endless. His presence in His creation is celebrated by the sounds and sights of unimaginable beauty and rapture. God is Omnipresent in His creation. The limits of creation are indiscernible, for He created countless:

- Forms of air.
- Water.
- Fire.
- *Krishnas*.
- *Vishnus*.
- Brahmas, busy in creating bodies of myriad of shape and color.
- Earths where the inhabitants are under the laws of Karma.
- Mountains.
- Saints with their unique teachings.
- Celestial Beings.

- *Indras*.
- Moons.
- Suns.
- Universes.
- Demigods - *Sidhas*, *Budhas*, *Naths*.
- Goddesses and gods.
- *Munees*.
- Oceans and their treasures.
- Manners of eating and communication.
- Kings.
- Rajahs.
- Modes of meditation and those who engage in these.

Precept: God shapes the beauty of mind. God transforms the personality of those who He Favors. He Graces them with great and unparalleled beauty of character. He shapes their intellect, perspective on life, mind and conscience. God changes simple people (humans) into pious and enlightened individuals (*Sur*, *Sidh*).

Precept: God creates saint-soldiers and empowers them. They remain absorbed in God. Their personalities are of such beauty as defy description. Their personalities and deeds are stunningly impressive. They can neither be dishonored nor defiled by extreme hardship or even death. God dwells in their hearts. They rejoice in devotion to God. They are eternally one with God, because of His Grace.

Question No. 28
Where is the abode of God and how vast is his sovereign rule?

Precept: The abode of God is where truth is. His sovereign rule extends over all. God is Truth. Truth never perishes, for it is eternal. Truth is everywhere in God's creation. Where egotism, doubt and falsehood are absolutely absent, there God is. God is in the mind of His devotee. Truth inheres in everything and everywhere. Where Truth is, there God is. If God casts His Glance of Grace on someone, then the joy of the person has no bounds.

It is absolutely true that God's Sovereign Rule extends over all of His creation. His Rule extends over uncountable universes upon universes. All, in the entire creation, must and do obey God's Commands. No one can or does defy God. His sway over His creation is absolute. God is Omnipresent. Everywhere, God witnesses His Commands being carried out and He revels in their execution. Only God knows what it is like to have such control over His creation. No one else can partner in this knowledge.

Note: Understanding of the above involvement of God with His creation and acceptance of the stated facts help the disciple of Guru to have fuller understanding of Divine Wisdom of Guru. In the different ways God is involved with His creation, Guru Nanak Dev Ji provides his disciples *Darshan* - a vision of Waheguru (God).

The *Darshan* of Waheguru is immediately real and vivid to Guru Nanak Dev Ji. The understanding of Personality of God and the nature of His involvement with His creation help

transform the mind of disciple of the Guru. The disciple is helped to make spiritual progress on his journey towards the state of *Sehaj*.

Question No. 29
What is the quintessence of Godly life?

Precept: The quintessence of godly life is to imbibe the nectar that is derived from the remembrance of God's Name (worship of God). The remembrance of God that produces this nectar is derived from an earnest devotion to Him. Such devotion is possible only by the Grace of God. The nectar thus received, by remembering God, produces immense, preeminent happiness and peace for the blessed. In order that one's devotion to God is earnest, one must possess the following:

- Self-discipline that prevents one from ill-deeds
- Patience
- Conducive intellect
- Instruction from Guru
- Reverence for God
- Love for God

In the above canto No. 38 of Jap Ji Sahib, Guru Ji has used the example of a goldsmith to instruct his disciple. The goldsmith must have the following to create a piece of gold jewelry:

- A workshop and needed skills to make jewelry.
- Patience, as a critical asset of his temperament to create a fine piece of jewelry.
- Anvil as a firm and solid base to place gold on it and strike it with hammer to shape it.
- Tools of the trade such as a hammer.
- Bellows to intensify the heat of fire.
- Crucible to melt the gold in.
- Fire to soften and shape the gold into jewelry.
- Gold to be shaped into a piece of jewelry.

In this canto, Guru Ji draws a parallel between a goldsmith and a devotee of God. The goldsmith creates a fine, adorable piece of gold jewelry by means of the above. A devotee of God creates *Sehaj* / *Aanand*. The devotee must have the following to create *Aanand* (Inner peace and happiness):

- *Jat*: Traits, such as truthfulness, contentment, compassion, faith (Belief in God).
- Patience and equanimity required for devotion to God.
- Intellectual-emotional perspective (*Mat*) which can be transformed into *Gurmat* perspective with the impact of wisdom of Guru. This means to become earnest disciple of Guru.
- Hammer of the Divine Wisdom of Guru to mold the intellectual-emotional perspective to give it the shape of *Gurmat*.
- Passionate reverence for Guru and God.
- Love for Guru and God.
- Contemplation of the Name of God to produce Ambrosia which gives *Aanand*.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji reminds us that it is the Eternal Mint (God) from whom the wisdom of Guru emanates. Only those individuals benefit from the Divine Wisdom of Guru whom God blesses with His Grace. By the Grace of Grace-Giver, disciples of Guru / devotees of God enjoy the state of *Sehaj* / *Aanand*: On-going, natural, blissful and effortless connectedness of mind with God, Guru and Saints, in reverence and love.

Note: In the answers above to the question of: In what ways is God involved with His creation, Guru Nanak Dev Ji educates his disciple that God is involved in five different ways with His creation. The explanations are lessons for the disciple to gain spiritual ascendency: In these lessons, Guru Ji inspires his disciple to engage in true moral conduct. The disciple learns his insignificance in God's vast creation. The disciple sheds ugliness of mind (*Manmukhta*) which is replaced with spiritual beauty of his mind (*Gurmukhta*). With Guru's teachings, perspective of the disciple becomes that of a saint-soldier. The disciple learns that the abode of God is eternal. His rule extends over all of His creation. All in His creation must and do obey God's commands. His sway over His creation is absolute. God is Omnipresent. Everywhere, God witnesses His commands being carried out and He revels in their execution. Only God knows what it is like to have such control over His creation. No one else can partner in this knowledge. By His Grace, God bestows boundless joy on His devotee – the disciple of True Guru.

Question No. 30

What is the most worthwhile and rewarding labor a person may expend in life?

Precept: The most worthwhile and rewarding labor of anyone is the labor of being immersed in remembrance of God. Those who do this are the blessed ones. God honors them because of this labor. Those, who associate with such individuals, are also blessed with liberation by God. God watches over the merits and demerits of all. Some draw nearer to God because of their noble actions in life. Others pull farther away from God because of their misdeeds. This drama of life is played on the stage of Mother Earth where air, water, day and night cradle and sustain everyone.

Note: In *Pauree* # 38, and the last Slok of Jap Ji Sahib, Guru Nanak Dev Ji has concisely stated the wisdom contained in earlier part of the composition.

SAT NAAM -- WAHEGURU